

✓ ref 285071

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019, 11:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 2018-358-WS

Dear Mr. J Daniel and Ms. Lisa Troop,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-358-WS - Verified Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated for Approval of Annual Rate Adjustment Mechanisms and Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Expenses

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-358-WS - Verified Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated for Approval of Annual Rate Adjustment Mechanisms and Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Expenses - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116911>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
 Becky Latimer
 Clerk's Office/Administrative Coordinator
 Public Service Commission of South Carolina
 803-896-5100
Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text PSCAGENDAS to 39492



* Required Fields

Date: *6/8/19

**Letter of Protest
in Docket 2018-358-WS**

Protestant Information:

Name *J. Daniel and Lisa Troop

Mailing Address *

City*Lake Wylie

State*SC

Zip *29710

Phone*

E-mail*

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

We are a customer of Blue Granite Water Company and are protesting their request for rate hikes and annual rate adjustment mechanism.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

This is a perfect example of what is wrong with privatization of vital public resources combined with oversight by appointed State regulators. The customers are captive to the monopoly and regulators negotiate grossly inflated requests back to levels merely 3 to 5 times inflation rates and consider that a "good deal" for the customers. The idea of a direct pass-through increase without any oversight is a disaster! Studies have shown that privatized water rates are typically 59% higher than local government utilities and privatized sewer rates are even higher at 63% more expensive than local government utilities. (According to Food and Water Watch.org)

Carolina Water Service, Inc./Utilities, Inc./now known as Blue Granite Water Company, Inc., after losing the lawsuit brought by Congaree Water Keeper and filed under the Clean Water Act in Columbia, SC, had estimated legal expenses approaching \$1 million in that loss, along with the \$1.5 million fine that was imposed and now they are back after just one (1) year requesting another rate hike. Historically, they only request their rate hikes bi-annually to re-coop (deferred whole-sale costs). In addition, they now want to spread those deferred whole-sale costs across all of their customers instead of just those in the effected areas. Heaven forbid they be forced to re-coop those deferred costs from their 10.5% profit that the Public Service Commission deems appropriate, nor should they consider pushing back against their 13 water providers they purchase from or the 6 sewer providers they purchase from. Considering that they purchase everything, what is it that they manage? Certainly not costs and definitely not improvement or expansion of infrastructure. Legal fees and fines for mismanagement are not a customer's responsibility and they should not be held liable. It is a shareholder responsibility and should be paid for from the 10.5% profit margin. Also, consider that they have failed to plan responsibly for growth and now their existing customers are suffering through water rations on top of the rest of their cost mismanagement.

Please do not even entertain the thought of granting an annual rate increase mechanism to a monopoly company with such a poor track record of managing costs and operating with utter disregard for the customers they service. In addition, we already experience billing volatility with meter readings anywhere from 26 to 35 days provided by subcontractors on bicycles riding through our neighborhoods.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding , if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

Only upon request.